Folklore Editor University - all -
Enclo find some old time clipping.
If feel like printing it is all
O.K. with me. If not plo Return

Yours

Al F Brown

of

The Livery Barn

Scots Bear Yet Another Stigma

Made Awful Mess of Indian, Laughs Halfbreed

Scotch, French and Indian races, with their mixtures, were compared briefly in the Thursday session of the halfbreed investigation commission. The Scotch did not win.

"Have you found any difference in the living conditions of the Scotch halfbreeds and the French halfbreeds?" asked James M. Douglas, commissioner.

Felix Callihoo, of St. Paul, member of the Metis executive, smiled.

"As I had it explained to me," he said, the Scotch halfbreed is considered a big improvement on the Scotsman himself, but it made an awful mess of the Indian."

Mr. Dougles joined in the roar of laughter.

* * *

However, we have greatly improved in our ceremonial technique since the old days. We remember being present at a banquet in the Alberta hotel at Edmonton, twenty-three years ago, when the chairman got up and proposed the health of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, "coupled with the name of Al Brown, our popular liveryman." Al replied on behalf of Her Majesty in a most eloquent harangue, which was heartily applauded by all those sober enough to listen to it. Them was the days!

Bob Edwards Eye Opener

"Al. Brown's Red Barn" Will House No More Arguments

Pioneer Livery Stable to be Razed—Blocks Progress

Another old Edmonton landmark is fading out of the picture.

With the demolition of the old red livery barn at the back of the Jasper house on Namayo, ordered Friday by the city commissioners owing to the dilapidated condition of the structure, one of Edmonton's most famous meeting places passes.

"Al Brown's red barn" was the name of the famous rendezvous in its palmy days. Here it was that all the gold seeking parties which left Edmonton to take the overland trail to the Yukon in '98 outfitted and started. All their preparations were made there; all the heated discussions as to how much duffle should be "ditched" and what route should be taken were fought out there. Old timers and chechakoos, pioneers and tenderfeet, all met at Al Brown's.

Rented Sunday "Rigs"

The old barn has also tender memories for many men prominent in the life of Edmonton and Canada today, for it was here that the shiniest buggies and the snappiest high-steppers were to be found, and they had to get their orders in early if they wanted a "rig" on Sunday, or to drive to the Fort with the "one and only" in those days when "all the world was young."

"Some of the big men in Canada today did the courtin' in buggies from the old red barn" chuckles Al Brown reminiscently.

The sports of the pioneering days in Edmonton also made the old red barn their rendezvous. Many were the tales told of Sullivan and Kilrane, Peter Jackson and other gladiators of the squared circle, and in one heated argument over the respective claims of Corbett and Fitzsimmons a sanguinary battle in which a man afterwards high in politics was one of the principals, took place in the harness room, with half of male Edmonton egging their champions on.

"But the boys were sports in those days. When it was over we all adjourned to Lenny Goodridge's Jasper house and sank all differences" says Brown, "but it was a real humdinger of a battle while it lasted."

Many were the horse races arranged there and bets were made and lost with reckless abandon by the boys in the brown derbies and the checked pants and tight little coats which were the hall mark of "the sport" in the '80's and early '90's.

Plenty of Politics

Al Brown's barn was also the scene of many a mighty political argument before Alberta was a province, and the rough and tumble political debater of the old school found plenty of opponents to take the opposite side of any question he brought up.

"If the old building could speak it could tell many a good tale and hand out many a laugh an' perhaps a tear or two on the side," said one old timer whose memory was quickened by the news that the old barn was being pulled down. "Well, all us old timers have got to fade out of the picture some time, but the old red barn has a warm spot in the hearts of most of us, especially those of us who got our courtin' rigs here."

Then he strolled off to have a last look at the old building before the wreckers got to work.

AY the wonderful series of articles on HEALTH &

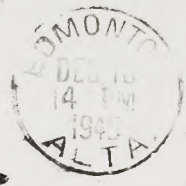
Bulletin Aug 9/26

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Alf Brown

10164 - 96th St

EDMONTON, ALTA.



Editor Folklore quarterly

University of Alb

Edmonton South

Alb

1945
GREETINGS

July 12, 1944

Edmonton Bulletin

Founded in 1880 by Hon. Frank Oliver.

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Edmonton First

One of the first manifestations of the civic spirit is a wholesome pride. One of the first manifestations of pride is jealousy. And one of the first manifestations of jealousy is rivalry.

All this explains why the desperate anxiety of Edmonton people to do Calgary people in the eye is a healthy thing. There is lusty rejoicing in this city when Edmonton surpasses Calgary in anything—including population and the expenditure of public money.

Thus there is jovial satisfaction in the knowledge that Edmonton beat Calgary soundly in the last Victory Loan—not because we love Calgary less, but because we love Edmonton more, as the poet said.

Here, then, are the figures, just released, of the latest bond drive:

Edmonton, objective $5,100,000, results $6,220,000, applications 29,487, and percentage quota, 122. Calgary, objective $5,100,000, results $5,874,750, applications 28,598, percentage quota 115.

This news is particularly exhilarating because, while Edmonton has always been the superior place to live, Calgary used to have the reputation for excessive generosity in the matter of giving.

Calgary citizens, so the legend ran, were hearty and prodigal spenders, free with their money, exuberant in their support of every worthy cause.

Probably they still are. But Edmonton people are more so. It simply means that Edmonton folk have become more public-spirited than Calgarians.

It is a good precedent to establish and a good precedent to follow. Several vital drives for money are still to come up this year.

The manner in which Edmonton supports those drives will be a yardstick to measure the continued growth of her civic consciousness.

Edmonton Journal
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1945

Amazing Growth of City Is Shown in Directory

Published nearly half a century ago when Edmonton was a thriving frontier town, Lowe's directory of the Edmonton district contains many amazing facts concerning conditions here, when viewed in the light of Edmonton's growth in the interval.

Compiled and published by C. A. Lowe, of Clover Bar, the directory was the second of the kind issued in Alberta. It was published in 1899, following by four years Spurr's directory that was issued in 1895.

Edmonton at that time had a population of between 2,200 and 2,300, exclusive of Strathcona, now South Edmonton, which had an estimated 1,200 people.

People were rushing to Edmonton in those early days. Attracted by lurid stories of gold in the Klondyke, people flocked to Edmonton during the fall of 1897 and the spring of 1898.

Leading Fur Centre

A leading fur centre, Edmonton then shipped $500,000 worth of furs annually to the export markets.

In those days, Edmonton and Strathcona mustered a total of 85 telephone subscribers, compared with more than 24,000 at the present time.

Coal could be bought at the mines at prices ranging from 60 to 75 cents per load. The retail price for coal delivered in the towns was from $1.50 to $2 per ton.

Some settlers made from $1.50 to $4 per day "panning" for gold on the bars of the Saskatchewan river.

Partly improved farms could be purchased near Edmonton at from $5 per acre upward. Railway lands within 10 miles of the town were sold at $3 per acre.

In 1899 the mayor of Edmonton was W. S. Edmiston and the treasurer G. R. F. Kirkpatrick. Alex. Taylor was chairman of the school board. T. G. Lauder, still living here, was chief of the fire brigade.

Wholesale Vendor

J. B. Mercer was a wholesale vendor of liquors, wines and cigars. He advertised in the directory "all goods purchased in bond and sold at the lowest possible price."

The town's newspapers were the Edmonton Bulletin, the Advertiser, the Edmonton Post, L'Ouest Canadian, only French-Canadian paper then published west of Winnipeg. In Strathcona, there was the Alberta Plaindealer.

The Alberta hotel advertised sample rooms, free bus and livery in connection with its service. Only brick hotel in Edmonton at that time was the Jasper House. The Queen's hotel then advertised "best liquors and cigars." One of the main appeals of the Grand Central hotel was that German, French and Belgian were spoken. The proprietors were Matz & Mueller.

The three banks here were the Imperial, which was the first to come to Edmonton, the Merchants Bank of Canada, and La Banque Jacques Cartier.

Dr. E. A. Braithwaite, now chief coroner for the province, was one of the physicians here at that time.

A. W. Ormsby, subsequently a city commissioner and now in private business here, is listed as an "electrician."

George T. Bragg, still resident here, is listed as the C.P.R. Dominion Express company representative.

The mayor of Strathcona was Thomas Bennett and secretary-treasurer the late Hon. A. C. Rutherford. Mayor Bennett also was chairman of the school board.

A Story of the Weekly Press and its Place in Community Life

* * * *

The following story by Della Foss, of Edmonton, was prepared for a broadcast over the CBC, via the western network, and was heard last Friday afternoon. The writer spent two or three days in Macleod during March, gathering material for other broadcasts on western life.

OUR WEEKLY NEWS

Script by Della Foss

Did you ever stop to think how much more interesting life would be if you picked up your daily paper and read somethng like this: "Mrs. Roger Blank, who lives in the next block, was paid a visit by the stork this morning. Now the Blank household is boasting of an eight pound, one ounce baby boy. Mrs. Blank plans to name the baby Thomas William after her husband who is overseas." Of course, it never happens. The social notes in the paper are always about people we never heard of. And the headlines are always about far-off world events.

However—if you live in a small town, or the country, and subscribe to a weekly newspaper, a story like I just told about Mrs. Blank and her first-born wouldn't be far-fetched.

Although I think a lot of us forget it, the weekly press in Canada is very important. It develops community interest and pride, and it tells the news of the community in a way no city daily could even attempt. If you'd just ask any boy home from overseas what it meant to receive a copy of his home town paper, you'd know what I mean. It was a personal link with home—just second best to a letter.

Now if I wanted to start an argument, I'd say weekly papers are more important than the city dailies. But it's not that. Each fills a different place in modern life. For the most part, people in the country today depend on the radio for their world news—but on Tuesday or Thursday, or whenever the weekly paper is published, they read it from first page to last, just to find out what their neighbors are doing. You know the sort of thing I mean—"A surprise shower was held at the home of Mrs. Margaret Smith in honor of—So and So who is to be married soon" or— "In order to send boxes to the boys overseas, our local Happy Gang is holding a dance in Boyle's Hall on March 3, with Carl's Swing Band furnishing the music. Lunch will be served." This is all on the first page of the paper, and if you look around a little more, you even find a few jokes. Here's one I read on the first page of a weekly paper: "Grace turned up at work the other day wearing two officer's bars pinned to her sweater. One of her office mates asked: "Is your boy friend a Flt. Lieut." "Goodness, no," Grace answered, "Two Flying Officer's."

What I'm trying to bring out—is that there's a different feeling about a weekly paper, than there is about a city daily. A publisher of one weekly paper was telling me there's a very close tie between reader and editor, and that one of his subscibers tears into the office on an average of once a month, threatening to wreck the place, because his politics and those of the editor don't agree!

Well—all this being true, I thought I'd like to get down to the bottom of things and find out something about weekly papers. I found we have almost seven hundred weekly papers in Canada today—but just sixty-five years ago, there weren't more than a dozen newspapers of any kind in Western Canada. Then the Newspaper came west with the covered wagon beating the railroad by a good fifteen years! And today, every town of any size has its "Spectator" or "Record" or "Tribune" or "Herald" or "Advocate" or "Journal"—and the paper is as much of an institution as the Town Hall.

I couldn't visit every newspaper office in the West— but I would have liked to. There's something about the atmosphere of a country newspaper office that you can't find anywhere else. Most of the time, the linotype machine, printing press, and all the other paraphenalia it takes to turn out a newspaper is all there in one big room, close to you. There's something in the sight of it all that makes you news' conscious as you've never been before.

Anyway as I just said, I couldn't visit every newspaper office, so in the end, I visited a paper in Southern Alberta, the "Macleod Gazette". I chose the "Gazette" because it's one of the oldest weekly papers in the west. It was founded in 1882, and under one name or another, it's been published every Thursday since, for almost sixty-two years. More than that, I think the "Gazette is fairly typical of all weekly papers.

When I met the staff, I found that the war has brought women into still another field—and a few years ago—well, the weekly paper office was still pretty much a man's world. Of course, there was Mr. H. T. Halliwell, the editor and publisher—and then Norman Bedard, the chief linotype operator. But the other two members of the staff were girls. First there was Audrey Halliwell—daughter of the editor. She's the book-keeper and stenographer. The other was Lorraine Sinclair. Lorraine is just nineteen, and she believe it or not, is the assistant linotype operator.

According to what I've always heard, linotype operators just have to be men, so I asked Lorraine about it. She said I was right—girl linotype operators really were something new. In fact, there'd even been a magazine article written about her. Lorraine's such a feminine type, it was hard to imagine her doing a man's work.

I asked the girls how they liked working in the newspaper office. Just then the press started to roll, making a terrific noise. Audrey covered her ears with both hands and said if there was just some way of shutting out some of that noise, she'd like it fine! Lorraine agreed with her, and then both girls admitted they like it in spite of the noise and started to show me step by step what happens when a country paper is finally published.

The editor is usually the chief reporter,too. In fact, he's usually all the reporters rolled into one, a sort of one-man editorial staff. You might think that in a small place, people would just pick up the 'phone and send in their own news. But they say that isn't true. A reporter still has to go out and get it.

The "Gazette" happens to come out on Thursday, and of course, that's the big day. Friday and Saturday—well, they're pretty quiet days around the office. There's just the occasional noise of the press as some small printing job is done—such as posters advertising a dance, or a baseball game. Then Monday rolls around and the work begins. Of course if there's been some sports event, or anything of interest, over the week-end, it was reported at the time. But, barring this, the work of assembling the paper usually starts Monday.

Of Course, the first thing is to get the news. Usually the one-man editorial staff' sees to this, though sometimes it's mailed in from country points by correspondents. When the news is written up, it's called "copy"—I don't know quite why, but it is—and after this copy is checked for errors it's ready for the linotype.

A linotype is quite an affair—but if I gave my unmechanical impressions of it, you woudn't know if it was an invention to aid the Canadan Press, or a medieval instrument of torture. It has some of the features of a typewriter, only instead of typewritten sheets of paper it turns out its printing on pieces of lead, and the printing is in reverse. Of course this all comes straight again when these lettered impressions are put on the newsprint.

It takes an experienced operator to run a linotype—as I found out, much to my embarrassment. Lorraine and Audrey invited me to take a try at it—and after I hit one key, it took five minutes to get the machine in working order again! I didn't do any damage— but I certainly proved that a linotype operator needs a very light touch!

"Going to press" is the final item before a paper is born. The press like the linotype is completely beyond me. The one thing I fully understand about it is the din it creates. No matter how I try, I can't imagine more noise or motion than there is when the press starts Everything from floor to ceiling seems to be vibrating—and suddenly, you have a new conception of the might of the press.

I couldn't help being interested in the history of the paper, or rather of the record the paper had kept of ealy days. So the girls and I started going through the bulky, dusty old files that took us clear back to 1888. In the hustle of frontier life, earlier copies of the paper were lost.

The first copy of the paper we looked at was marked Volume 7, No. 4, and dated July 25th, 1888. It was a radically different paper than those we're used to today. It felt like taking a bird's eye glimpse into grandfather's boyhood. There was no headline at all, and nothing much you'd call news on the front page. In fact the first page was mostly advertisements. The 1880's must have been an Advertisers' Paradise!

Conspicuous on page one was an advertisement for ice cream. That sounds familiar, doesn't it?

(Continued on page 5)

VEGREVILLE OBSERVER, Oct 12/1927

SOME EDMONTON FORTS, THEIR FACTORS AND THE "BIG HOUSE"

By Ernest Brown, Vegreville

(Concluded from last week)

More Edmonton Names

A French writer, Mr Antonio Prince, son of Antonio Prince, a well known barrister of the early days, says,—"Naught but a modest hamlet in 1885, Edmonton was better known as 'Fort a Husse' a word of peculiar interest. One of the first agents of The Hudson's Bay Company of this place bore the name of Hughes, which by reason of the improverished pronunciation of the time became corrupted in Fort a Husses." The same writer adds later in the article referred to, "Concerning the name of Fort a Husse or La Husse, we find different versions by differnt authors; Rev. P. Jonqu often refers to it as 'Fort Des Prairies' Fort of the Prairies); in Vingt Annes de Missions, by Mgr. Tache, Edmonton is often called St. Joachims Mission (Fort Edmonton); and lastly, others contend that 'Fort La Husse' is derived from 'Fort August' after August Hughes." But as we have previously stated, the name of Hughes has been given as "James" not "August." The present writer is therefore in favor of the statement given in the first of this article that the Fort Augustus name was given by Macdonald of Garth, after a hamlet of that name near his home in Scotland, and was applied to the fort built at the mouth of the Sturgeon by the N.W. Co.

The next name which comes so much into prominence is "Fort des Prairies" or "Fort of the Prairies." There have been other forts in Western Canada bearing that name, but Alexander Ross in his writing of 1825 says,—"Rowan, the factor in charge of the Hudson's Bay post for the previous four years (from amalgamation in 1821), speaks of the fort as 'Fort des Prairies,' which was the name of the then abandoned Nor. West Fort. The language of the fort at that time being French as that of the Nor. West Fort had been." I think we can accept this as correct.

The other names the fort or forts appear to have been known by are: Fort aux Trembles, Fort Hughes, Fort Edmonton, Edmonton House, (in an atlas published in 1876 in possession of present writer) Beaver House, Beaver Hill House. These latter names are also given by Harrison Young, 1870, and Hon. Frank Oliver 1876.

Other "Edmonton"

After leaving the Sturgeon location in 1807 for the Edmonton location, the two companies—the Hudson's Bay long time, at the start, the big North West post here was known as 'Fort Hughes' or 'Hughes Fort,' taking its name from the officer in charge."

Many Forts of Temporary Nature

Many of these forts were not of a permanent nature, as may be evidenced by the statement of Sir Geo. Simpson, who likened them to half a dozen log cabins erected in a few days.

C. O. Papers 42, Vol. 267, says, Fort Augustus 26th January, 1821, Mr. Rowand winters at Rocky Mountain House.

From these various statements it would probably be safe to assume that Fort Edmonton was not in continuous operation (at what is now Edmonton) after the removal of the first forts from the mouth of the Sturgeon in 1807, and would probably reconcile some of the statements given herein regarding names of forts and their factors. One writer says—Edmonton was abandoned after three years (from 1810) for a bigger post down the river, until 1820-21.

Thirteen Years of Trouble

While not intending to deal with the general history of the Fur Trade, or the Hudson's Bay Co., it would be as well to keep in mind the troublesome times which caused the British Government in 1857 to send out the expedition under Capt. Palliser; and the Dominion Government to send the Prof. Hind expedition the same year. Also that in 1859-60 the Hudson's Bay Co. passed through one of its crises with the Imperial Government. In 1863 the Hudson's Bay Co. sold a large number of its shares to the Anglo-International Finance Association, composed of several prominent American capitalists. Three years later, 1866, there was a bill before the United States Congress, for the United States to buy the interests of the Hudson's Bay Co. and annex Canada east and west. This bill was read twice (see "Through the Mackenzie Basin" by Chas. Mair, 1906). In 1865 the United States had the war between the States. In 1867 the Confederation of the Canadian provinces, and 1869-70 the first Northwest rebellion.

A Big Real Estate Deal

Some criticism has been indulged in regarding the price paid to the Hudson's Bay Co. for the relinquishing of their rights, but to anyone familiar with the history of the thirteen and of the most harmonious kind. In later years in the risings of 1869 and 1885, it was not the Hudson's Bay Co. that the half-breeds and Indians were opposed to, but the incoming settlers, who were driving the fur-bearing animals farther away, and sharing in the killing of that which had previously been the Indians sole means of sustenance. The second rebellion was on account of the government's delay and neglect in the land settlement and the method of survey.

Therefore if any such precautions were taken in the trading with the Indians as here described, it must have occurred in the very early days. While there were stirring times in the early days for the fur merchants from Montreal trading with the Indians in the east, Lake Erie, Lake Superior and the Georgian Bay districts, I am not aware of any brigade of Hudson Bay boats laden with goods for the purpose of trade, being attacked by the Indians, when it would have been possible for the Indians to outnumber them twenty or forty to one.

Three Indian Stories

Without wishing to labor the point, we would like to repeat the story told by Isaac Cowie in his "Gentlemen Adventurers," of how he sent to a lonely located fort, an Indian asked for goods which was refused, and how during the night the Indian Chief climbed the high stockade fence and took from under Mr. Cowie's pillow some article, presenting it to him the next day, to show he could either have killed him, or helped himself to the goods he had requested.

Another story from another source is,—"There were no lack of visitors, the house contained many marvels, the fame of which spread about among the Indians, chief among the marvelous collection was a clock. Squatted on the ground the guests would sit in expectant silence by the hour waiting to hear it strike, as the last stroke sounded one of the traders would cry "stop" and to the admiration of the company the obedient clock was silent. They thought it was alive, and asked what it ate. Besides this there was a prism and a magnet; and a multiplying lense which showed the same object eleven times repeated; also a magnifying glass, wherein a flea was transformed into a frightful monster."

Rowand, 1821, says,—"The natives are disturbed as usual with war among themselves."

Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle in their overland expedition of 1862 report: "Once while absent from camp a starving Indian trapper known as 'The Wolf' visited their log house, made a fire, boiled some snow and waited some time for their return, but with the pangs of hunger gnawing his stomach he nevertheless refrained, in accordance with Indian etiquette, from touching the pemmican on the table and other stores that were accessable. He came again next day when our party was at home and was re-

(Continued on page 6)

are also given by Harrison Young, 1870, and Hon. Frank Oliver 1876.

Other "Edmonton"

After leaving the Sturgeon location in 1807 for the Edmonton location, the two companies—the Hudson's Bay Co. and the North West Co. built forts east and west of the one which is better known as being located on the grounds of the Alberta Parliament Buildings. (Behind the Government House and in front of the Parliament Buildings—the stables being located approximately where the bowling grounds now are and the store much farther east).

The location of these two earlier forts, the one of the Hudson's Bay Co. was on the flats near the Edmonton city power house (to the east of the latest built one). Rev. Dr. McQueen says,—"The Hudson's Bay Co. first built near the city power house, but later moved to higher ground on account of the floods; the Nor. West trading post was at White Mud River (Creek?)." The Hon. Frank Oliver said the Nor. West fort was built to the west of (latest) fort where the golf links now are—below Malcolm Groat's residence.

John Sinclair (born 1835) writing in 1908, says his father, Chief Factor Wm. Sinclair, told him the first fort built in Edmonton was built by the North West Co. and was situated on flats (now golf links) below Groat residence and its chimney may be seen there yet.

Joseph McDonald, also born same year and before referred to, believes the first post of the Hudson's Bay Co. was built close to the present one, but before long they moved to the east, where the city power house now stands (1908), some traces of the cellars are now to be seen. One year the water rose so high that four feet of water came in the houses, and the company again moved their post, this time building it on the hill.

John Sinclair also remembers his father saying, that at one time both companies, the North West and The Hudson's Bay Co., had forts at White Mud Creek, but high water drove them all away. The rival companies rebuilt, this time on the island about 30 miles below the mission of St. Paul de Cris (St. Paul of the Crees?) afterwards established by Father Lacombe. This fort was called Fort de l'Isle, traces of the fort cellars may still be seen there.

The Hudson's Bay Co. also had a fort at Dog Rump, quite an important post. Because of trouble with the Indians these forts were given up, and one at Fort Vermilion established near what is now the town of Vermilion, but this also had to be given up. Finally they built Fort Pitt and Fort Carleton and made them strong enough to withstand attacks.

These were all more recent posts than Edmonton. Then Fort la Corne was built.

We have wandered some from Edmonton, but think these statements are worth recording.

Mr. Sinclair further states: "For a

A Big Real Estate Deal

Some criticism has been indulged in regarding the price paid to the Hudson's Bay Co. for the relinquishing of their rights, but to anyone familiar with the history of the thirteen year period, referred to above, will readily see that this biggest of real estate deals ever consumated in the Dominion was not only of immense profit to the people, but possibly saved at least the country west of the Great Lakes to Canada and the Empire.

We apologize for having digressed, but a knowledge of these events will enable the student of our local history to better understand the apparently contradictory statements of our old-timers, and see that in the broader details they are not as inconsistent as would at first appear.

So much for the forts, their names and their builders. Some particulars of the latest surviving fort, the one we know so well, would be interesting.

The Fort We Know

The fort is stated as being "hexagonal in form, with high pickets and bastions and battlemented gateways," and enclosed a space 310 feet long by 210 feet wide. Another writer says,—"The palisading was 18 feet high, and on the inside a high gallery was built round; with a block house at each of the four corners to strengthen it, and from which to be better able to defend the fort" (this would show it to be square, not six sided). Old-timers tell us the stockade was still around the fort in 1887. On three sides appear to have been large gates, the one facing the river being called the Indian gate. This gate was smaller than the rest. In fact so small that a person had to stoop to enter. Further inside this gate was a wicket gate facing the Indian trading store. A diary entry records the Indian house was built in 1856. It is stated that in the troublesome times with the Indians, only one Indian would be let in at one time, the gate being then closed. The counter had iron rails, somewhat similar to bank fittings; it is further stated that the customer was faced with abig blunderbuss, much the same as the bank teller of today has laying on the counter, his revolver. All this may be true, but, with the fact that the traders went out on to the plains to trade as far east as what is now the town of Vegreville; with the knowledge of the history of the Indians; their proverbial honesty; their employment by the fur traders; the provisioning of the Indians by the Hudson's Bay Co. when the fur catch was lean; the throwing open of the Factor's "Big House" at Christmas time; the code among the Indians that except when on the war path not to attempt to take a life until first threatened; the marrying of the employees or the retired employees with the squaws, would all indicate that this closed and threatening method of tracing is largely fiction.

We have it on the authority of many independent writers, that the relations between the Hudson's Bay Co. and the Indians were always just,

Some Edmonton Forts, Their Factors and the "Big House"

(Continued from page 3)

warded with ample supplies for himself, his wife and family, who had all been starving for some days."

These, and numerous other instances that could be quoted, go to show there was little need to meet the Indian customer with a gun when about to effect a trade for furs.

Hudson's Bay Fort a City

One old-timer says, on arriving at the Fort in 1876 he found, "The Hudson's Bay Co. a city in itself, and consisted of a blacksmith shop, harness shop, shipbuilding shop, and a mill."

Hon. John Palliser Describes Fort

The Hon. John Palliser, writing in 1857, says,—"It is here that the boats for navigating the Saskatchewan are built, ten or twelve new ones being turned out every year." He described the fort as being quite as large as Fort Garry, wholly built of wood, and is furnished with bastions and palisades, the latter, however, being rather rotten to be a very sure means of defense. He further states that, "On the hill behind the fort stands a windmill, in which the stones were made by splitting a granite boulder that was found near the spot, and these, as may be supposed, are not very serviceable, however, they manage to produce a considerable quantity of flour." He describes the location as being on the bank where the Parliament Buildings now stand and gives details of the garden, or farm as he calls it, as not exceeding thirty acres. "The Company have a larger staff of tradesmen and servants than at any other post in the district. In all they have about fifty employees here, and the usual population within the fort is one hundred and fifty souls." He describes the food. "Buffalo meat, two buffaloes a day on an average, this year the animals are within a few days of the fort."

Rowand in 1821 writing to head office says,—"Buffalo scarce owing to a mild winter."

Cattle and Horses Imported

Mrs. Graham, Factor Hardisty's daughter, says that after the buffalo left the country in 1876 cattle were imported. Joseph McDonald (Edmonton old-timer, born 1835) says: "I was sent from Winnipeg in 1855 by John Rowand (late factor at Edmonton) with his son John Rowand, Jr., to round-up some stock left here by Rowand, Sr."

Large numbers of horses were kept by the company for buffalo hunting, pack horses and for freighting purposes, as many as 700 to 800 at one time. These were kept at the horse guard at Horse Hills and at Big Lake, the stables at the fort being only 36 feet by 90 feet.

Rowand's "Big House"

In the imagination of the people of the present day, probably the most important of the buildings comprising the fort is the "Big House" as the home of the Chief Factor was called. Around this building centered the social life of the community—a vastly different life than our fifteen to twenty Community Leagues of the city today—a community that extended west to the mountains, north 537 miles to Fort Chippewyan and east well on towards the Red River, while to the south it took in Macleod and Calgary. Some community, but at least, representatives would travel by dog trains and snow shoes over the snow these vast distances to be present at the Yuletide festivities held in the big house of the factor of the Hudson's Bay Co. It certainly was a large house even for these days that Chief Factor Rowan erected, 60 feet by 70 feet are given as the dimensions, and three stories high. It was built throughout with logs and lumber, the latter presumably sawn by the whip-saw. An imposing balcony was built along the east and west sides, this being reached by stairways both inside and outside the house. In all the house contained sixteen rooms, with four fireplaces. The Factor had special apartments on the second floor, on which also was the spacious ball-room and the gentlemen's mess room. According to Paul Kane, who visited this fort during the Christmas season of 1848, this latter room was most elaborately decorated with gilt scrolls on the ceiling and the walls, with barbaric gaudiness. All the coloring and painting was done by the employees at the fort, and was calculated to impress the Indians with awe, and the power of the British Empire to which he must yield implicit obedience. Paul Kane records, that at this particular dinner were also included Chief Factor Harriot, Father Thibault, and Thomas Rundle, Catholic and Methodist missionaries respectively.

Such a house situated in the wilderness of the west, became known as "Rowan's Folly" and the most expensive building west of York Factory.

Factor Richard Hardisty took possession of the "Big House" in 1868-70. His daughter, Mrs. Graham, says her father started to pull it down and to erect a new one in its place; another writer says,—"It was demolished in 1873." The new building was two and one-half stories in height. In 1882 the conservatory was added. The building was burned in 1906. Such was the finish of a worthy successor of one of the most historic buildings west of Winnipeg.

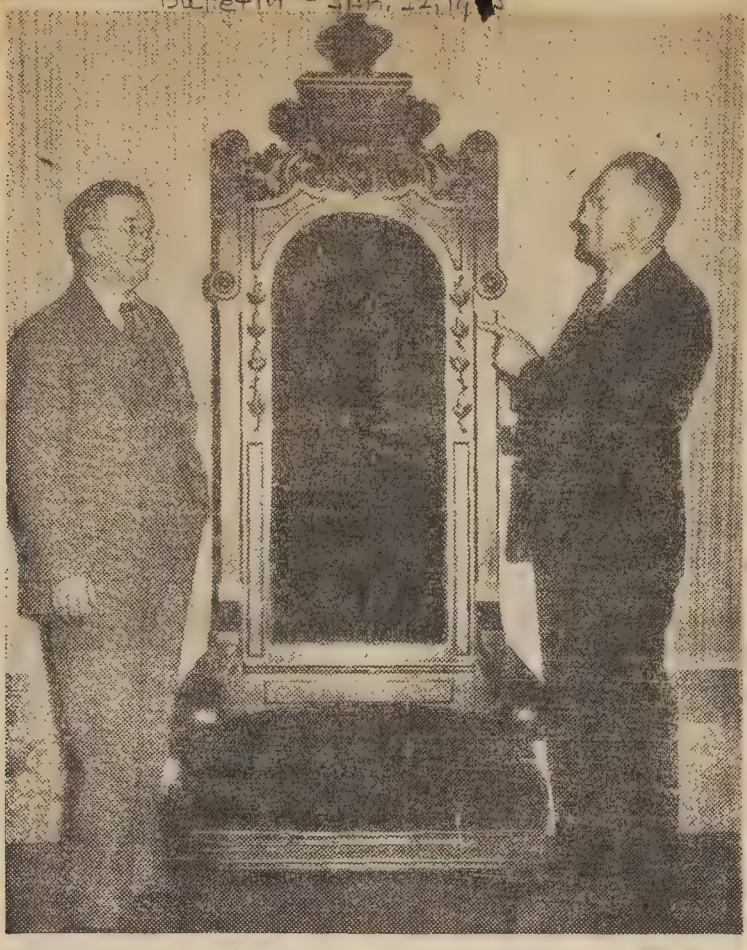
Why It Was Burned

It may not be out of place to retail the story current at the time, of the burning of the "Big House," the the historically minded to save the Fort from desecration." The call was unheeded, the government informed a delegation who waited on them that the logs were being numbered and marked, then stowed away, for the authenticity of which, however, we cannot vouch for. The house at one time, after being vacated by the Hardisty family, had been used as a small-pox hospital, some say it was burned down on that account; but the account that persisted was, that the provincial government required the site to build the Parliament Buildings on, they wrote for permission to the company, who looking up their records found there was a house on the site and asked the Government to choose a position farther west. As we all know there is no suitable site farther west of the Hudson's Bay Company's property. However, the house was burned, by Providence; or other means, which enabled the government to inform the Company that no house existed there, and permission was obtained to erect the Parliament Buildings where, for probably one hundred years, had stood the building which had also been the seat of government and authority for a vastly larger area.

Province Destroys Historic Landmark

To close our narrative of the "Old Fort" with all its associations we will quote the Edmonton Journal of April 28th, 1911. "With a hammering and a boarding, and a don't give-a-rap for the past, the Provincial Department of Public Works is defacing the writings of history as read in the weather-gray cluster of buildings enclosed within the wooden walls of the old Hudson's Bay Fort. More room is needed in which to store nail kegs or something, and new additions are being made to the buildings at the Fort. The call to arms is issued to purpose of re-erecting in a more suitable place. On later enquiry it was ascertained that the logs had been destroyed. And so, like the Winnipeg Forts, Fort Qu'Appelle, and quite recently the post at Onion Lake, and the last post in Saskatchewan, that at Prince Albert; to be followed in all likelihood by Fort Prince of Wales; and Churchill, old Fort Edmonton passed into oblivion, the spot to be marked (?) by the planting of a tree by the old-timers, and the placing of a brass tablet by the Memorial Board of Canada.

Bulletin - Jan. 22, 1965



HISTORIC CHAIR COMES TO EDMONTON—Above is shown the first Speaker's Chair of the North West Territories which has been presented to the provincial government by Mrs. H. C. Wilson, widow of Dr. H. C. Wilson, first Speaker of the North West Assembly. At the left is Hon. W. A. Fallow, minister of public works and acting premier, while at the right is R. A. Andison, clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

1st North West Assembly Speaker's Chair Is Presented To Province

The first Speaker's Chair used in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in Regina has come to Edmonton and will be preserved as a relic of the pioneer past, Hon. W. A. Fallow, acting premier announced. It comes to Alberta as the gift of Mrs. H. C. Wilson, widow of the late Dr. H. C. Wilson, first speaker of the Northwest Territories Assembly to whom it was presented when that legislative body was dissolved.

Explaining the purpose of the gift, Miss Violet H. Wilson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wilson, in a letter to Premier Ernest Manning, stated, "The table used at the sessions (of the assembly) is in Regina and she (Mrs. Wilson) would like to present this chair to the House in Edmonton as that is where my father lived and practiced for so many years."

BACKED BY PANEL

The chair, which now stands in the Legislative Chamber, is backed by a panel seven feet high, has an overall width of thirty inches and is made of solid, hand-carved mahogany. The back is topped by the state crown of Queen Victoria surmounted by a large Maltese cross. Immediately below is a spade shield form of the coat of arms of the Northwest Territories, a charging buffalo surmounted by the cross of St. George. The shield is "tressured floral in orle" and the panels of the chair back, outside a heavy, well-preserved padding of green velvet, are embossed with entwined maple leaves, upright "in pale."

Dr. Wilson, speaker of the first Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, was born at Picton, Ontario, and educated at high school there, Upper Canada College and Trinity Medical College, Toronto, from which he was graduated in 1881.

He represented Edmonton in the Northwest Council from 1885 until its abolition and in 1888 was elected to the first Legislative Assembly for which he was named speaker on October 31. He occupied the speaker's chair through to the end of the first Legislature in 1890. The chair, according to the ancient custom, was presented to him when his term of office expired and it has been preserved by the family since then.

SOME OF EDMONTON'S INDUSTRIES

The above are a few of Edmonton's Industries.

North West Lumber Co., output 20,000,000 feet per annum.
Coal Mining.
Railway Yards.
Dairy Farming.
Edmonton City Dairy, one of the largest enterprises of its kind in the West.

HISTORICAL TABLOIDS OF EDMONTON

1794—Old Fort Edmonton and Old Fort Augustus founded by Hudson's Bay Company and North West Fur Company at mouth of Sturgeon River, 25 miles below present site of Edmonton.

1807—The above Forts destroyed by Blood Indians.

1808—New Fort Edmonton and New Fort Augustus built on present site of Edmonton City.

1810—Above forts abandoned for new fort 125 miles down Saskatchewan River, called White Earth House.

1819—Fort Edmonton re-established.

1825—Chief Factor John Rowand placed in charge and built an elaborate fort with stockade 20 feet high, with bastions and cannons. Chief Factor's house known as "Rowand's Folly"—largest establishment west of York Factory.

1841 Sir George Simpson visits Edmonton—welcomed by eight Blackfeet Chiefs, who implored him to "grant that their horses might always be swift, that the buffalo might instantly abound, and that their women might live long and always look young."

1848—Paul Kane, famous Canadian artist, visits fort and paints beautiful half-breed girl—"Cunnewabum, the girl who looks at the stars."

1858-59—Captain John Palliser and James Hector, of Palliser Expedition, visit Edmonton for guides to cross Rocky Mountains in search of a railway pass. Lord Southesk visits Edmonton on hunting trip to Rocky Mountains.

1862-63—Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle visit Edmonton on way to Caribou for Royal Geographical Society.

1871—Rev. George McDougall, Methodist Missionary, builds mission on site of present McDougall Church—modern Edmonton begins.

1872 Sanford Fleming, C.E., and Principal Grant, John Macoun and Horetzky, reach Edmonton—on first transcontinental railway survey via Yellowhead Pass.

1874—Mounted Police, under Superintendent Jarvis and Sergeant-Major Sam Steele, reached Fort Edmonton and winter at Fort.

1876—Mail service established with Fort Garry.

1881—Frank Oliver establishes that little giant of a newspaper—"The Bulletin."

1885—Half-breeds' and Indians' Rebellion breaks out in North West. Edmonton gets a thrill reminiscent of Indian war days at the post.

1891—C.P.R. reaches North Saskatchewan River, opposite Edmonton.

1892—Town of Edmonton incorporated—Mat. McCauley, first Mayor.

1897—Edmonton fills with thousands of gold seekers bound for the Klondike.

1904—Edmonton incorporated as a City—Wm. Short, first City Mayor.

1905—Edmonton made capital of Alberta. Inauguration Day, September 1st, 1905. Canadian Northern Railway built into Edmonton—our first transcontinental.

1912—Edmonton and Strathcona, rival cities, unite as Greater Edmonton.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

Every facility for enjoyment of outdoor pastimes is available at Edmonton.

There are three golf courses, one controlled by the municipality and two private courses, and construction of a fourth is contemplated. Well-equipped grounds and areas of the city parks are devoted to cricket, football, baseball and basketball. Edmonton's famous basketball team, The Commercial Grads, is so well known by dint of its international reputation as champions of the world, that it is hardly necessary to elaborate any reference to the team. None of the roads around Edmonton are bad, and in an average season, they are usually very good, therefore motor trips and picnic parties are always a source of great pleasure. Splendid boating and fishing can be obtained at the lakes adjacent to the city, also good hunting and bird shooting

There is no need to call a halt to outdoor activities in the winter time. Certainly there are periods when low temperatures prevail, but the average of fine weather and sunshine is very high, and skating, skiing, sleighing, tobogganing, are all-winter amusements. The ice hockey enthusiast finds ideal conditions. There are scores of hockey teams, senior and junior, playing in the different city leagues.

The big game hunter who has the time to spare can experience a season packed full of activity, starting early and ending late. He can commence with bear, mountain sheep and goat, these being found in the vicinity of Banff and Jasper. The season for moose and deer opens on November 1st. Deer are to be found west and south-west of the city, along the banks of the North Saskatchewan river, and the moose country extends north-east and north-west from Edmonton. The man who secures one of these northern moose, with their magnificent spread of antlers, is a proud hunter. Licenses imposed upon non-resident hunters are reasonable.

Lake Resort

LAKE RESORTS

Within a short distance of Edmonton and easily reached by train, or by motor car over well-travelled roads, are a number of lakes, situated amid picturesque settings, and of considerable area. These lakes have been extensively developed as summer resorts and offer to the visitor every opportunity for a pleasant holiday, including camping sites, cottages at a moderate rental, boating, sailing, riding, fishing, tennis, and other outdoor recreations. There are well-equipped stores, supplying the campers' varied wants, mail delivery, telegraph and telephone service.

The tourist, making either a long or short stay, will find agreeable companionship among other holiday-makers.

The lakes most extensively patronized as being fairly adjacent to the city are: Cooking Lake, about 20 miles south of the city; Edmonton Beach, a similar distance to the west; Lake Wabamun and Seba Beach, a little farther to the west; Lac Ste. Anne and Alberta Beach, also to the west. Elk Island Park, 35 miles to the east of Edmonton, is a government game and forest reserve, but provision is made for tourists, and here may be viewed a herd of buffalo, together with elk and other deer. Lac La Biche, north-east of the city, involves a somewhat longer trip, but offers great possibilities for a quiet vacation; and Cold Lake, also to the north-east, similarly means a longer trip, but its magnificent trout fishing, unequalled in the west, amply repays any expenditure of time or trouble.

Edmonton's General Hospital Observing 40-Years Of Service

Grew from Three Storey Red Brick Building to be One of Most Up-to-Date Institutions in Canada; was founded by Grey Nuns.

The General, Edmonton's first modern hospital, in fact the city's first hospital, modern or otherwise, is 40 years old this month.

From the small three-storey red brick building with only 36 beds when it was first opened in July, 1895, the General has expanded, today having capacity of 200 beds. Special departments have been organized and today the hospital stands high in the council of medical men and citizens alike.

It was Dr. John Richardson in 1820 who forged the medical link that joined the past with the present for the western frontier country.

Dr. Richardson, medical officer to Sir John Franklin on his journey to the Polar Sea was the first healer of the sick to reach Fort Edmonton. Dr. Cheadle, an English explorer was next to touch the infant frontier town that grew to be Alberta's capital city.

STAYED FEW DAYS

He arrived, stayed a few days and then continued his memorable journey to the Pacific coast through the Yellow Head pass, to have the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern railways follow his trail years later.

First man to pursue the medical profession in Fort Edmonton was Dr. W. W. Mackay, chief factor and surgeon to "The Company of Gentlemen Adventurers Trading into Hudson's Bay." Dr. MacKay in the northwest for the first time in 1864, passed through this fort on frequent occasions before settling here. Fort Edmonton at that time had no hospital or medical facilities.

Pioneer surgeons in this district were Dr. Mackay, Dr. Blais, Dr. Harrison and Dr. Braithwaite who is now chief provincial coroner and hospital supervisor for Alberta. These men ministered to the sick and dying when the west was untamed by motor or plane and of necessity, drove nine miles in democrats or sleighs over rough trails to St. Albert to visit their patients in the first hospital to be founded in the province by the Grey Nuns, the Sisters of Charity in 1881.

DAYS OF YOUTH

In the days of his youth, Dr. Braithwaite was a surgeon to the Royal North West Mounted Police and as such witnessed the hanging of rebellion leader Louis Riel.

He has long been locally famous for his mania for speed. In the old days, his wagon and team and one horse buggy vied with the volunteer fire department's equipment when it came to eating up the most ground in the least time. Even today "Doc" Braithwaite, as he is known to the old timers prefers a car that can show its rear tire to everything on the road, including the R.C.M.P. highway patrols.

The "Doc" seldom drives himself, for years having preferred to trust life and limb to other hands on the reins or steering wheel.

When it was evident that in growth, progress and probable future St. Albert and Fort Saskatchewan at which point the Royal North West Mounted Police were stationed, were becoming second to Edmonton, Dr. Braithwaite and his fellow pioneer of medicine petitioned the Sisters of Charity, the Grey Nuns in 1894 to establish a General hospital here.

BY GREY NUNS

Sisters Marie Xavier and Gosselin, assigned by the Grey Nuns Montreal headquarters answered the call in 1895 and by July were tending the sick in Edmonton's new General hospital.

Since that time the hospital has progressed with the city and today its services embraces special departments school of nursing, diatetic, physical therapy, electrocardeograph, basal metabolism, cystoscopy and pathological laboratory.

The Edmonton General hospital is a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Alberta, faculty of medicine.

It is approved for standardization by the American College of Surgeons and Physicians and is approved for general interneship by the Canadian Medical Association.

Above is a view of the General hospital with Sister Superior Mary (insert). Below is J. H. Le Chasseur, office manager Edmonton General Hospital.

It's new, it's modern, clean, sanitary, up-to-the-minute and has that cool, orderly friendly spirit imparted to it by the Grey Nuns who are carrying on the work with best traditions, started by the first two Sisters of Charity 40 years ago.

Edmonton's Beginnings

There has been a constantly growing interest in Edmonton's history, stretching back as it does for more than a century and a quarter. So far as possible, the record of its very early days should be kept straight and some confusion is evident in what has been published regarding the proposal to secure for preservation here the journal kept by John MacDonald of Garth and the articles of historical value which he left, now in the possession of his grandson, whose home is in Montreal.

It has been stated that the new Fort Augustus was founded on the site of the present city in 1798. This is clearly a mistake. The fort was not built here till 1807. Previously there was an establishment of that name maintained by the North West company on the river bank a short distance below the future Fort Saskatchewan and also that of the Hudson's Bay company nearby which was known as Fort Edmonton. The inscription on the cairn erected in 1927 just above this historic spot records that the first was founded in 1794, the second in 1795 and that in 1807 they were both moved to where Edmonton now stands.

Much care was taken to ensure accuracy in the inscription. There is some doubt, however, as to whether it was in 1794 or 1795 that the original Fort Augustus came into being. McGillivray's journal says that it was in the latter year. He also credits a company employe named Hughes with being the founder and says that MacDonald arrived there a month later.

But MacDonald played a large part in laying the foundations of his company's operations at the site below Fort Saskatchewan and also here. It is most desirable that his collection be secured for preservation in the museum to house our historical material that should be built at no distant date.

Henry's Manor at "Edelmonton"

Henry VIII has been figuring prominently in the newspapers of late. Fresh information regarding his "private life" has been derived from some documents discovered in an ancient dwelling at Oundle, Northamptonshire, which have been placed on exhibition at the record office museum in London. They contain the accounts of the officials in charge of his various manors in the thirty-third and thirty-fourth years of his reign and are considered a great find by the historians.

Among the manors that they cover are those at Hackney, Westminster, Chelsea, Tyburn and Hyde Park. It is news to most of us that royal residences were once maintained at these points in the metropolis. But of still greater interest, to the people of the Alberta capital at least, is the revelation that there was one at "Edelmonton" which subsequently became Edmonton and some centuries later had its name adopted by the Hudson's Bay trading post on the Saskatchewan.

Journal Dec 1933

the whole, been extended in this Province by those whom the proposed legislation purports to restrain and control. All creditors recognize their inability to escape losses incident to the vicissitudes and perils of business. The proposed legislation, however, introduces a new and dangerous principle, namely: that the State shall have the right to vary or alter contracts entered into in mutual good faith, at least that is the interpretation which we believe is fairly placed on certain clauses of the Bill.

We are of the opinion that the enactment of such legislation would interdict the very classes it seeks to protect from necessary credit of any form and destroy the credit of thousands more. This would be harshly embarrassing to all the farmers of this Province. Existing farm equipment has reached a state where replacements are necessary. Obviously, after so many months of depression, the farmers are not in a position to purchase for cash, but their moral responsibility and good record are such that credit is still available for them, provided no further restrictions are placed on sales made on a credit basis. Moreover, restricted legislation of this character may so reduce the volume of goods sold on credit that many established businesses in the Province may be unable to survive.

Superadded to these requirements of private credit are the needs of the municipalities and of the Province itself for financial help with their respective difficulties. We have had direct and undisputed proof of the alarm that is felt in certain quarters at the proposed legislation, and that alarm will manifest itself in a reluctance to purchase the securities of the various governmental bodies in Alberta.

We do not attempt to enter into a technical discussion of the Bill, but we understand that great difficulties are foreseen in the application of its various provisions. We further understand that independent and competent authorities have expressed grave doubts as to the actual constitutionality of the measure.

Finally, we urge that no further tightening up of debt adjustment legislation be enacted, pending the time when the return to normal conditions will permit the repeal of all such restrictive measures.

Yours truly,

John Blue

JOHN BLUE,
Manager-Secretary.

JB:LC

OGOPOGO

Edmonton Journal

Oct. 19, 1943 -

Edmonton Journal - October 19, 1943

Ogopogo Thought on Loose Again; Dead Sheep Found on River Bank

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE. — The Ogopogo—that so-called river monster which has been the basis for many a tale told in this district —has set tongues wagging again.

Seen in the Rocky Mountain district for the past five years, the "sea serpent" has been sighted again. Not only has it been seen, but residents believe it has killed sheep and lambs missing from the farm of R. Martin.

Mr. Martin, whose farm is a mile north of town, has been missing sheep for two months and an organized search party discovered the bodies of four partly-devoured sheep on the bank of the North Saskatchewan river.

One of the animals had been freshly killed, and a member of the searching party, in advance of the others, said he saw a huge, gray shape slide into the river as he approached.

Other sheep and lambs also have been missed, and farmers along the river report losing calves. They are sure the Ogopogo has killed them.

Soldiers camped on the river bank an manoeuvres have reported the presence of the river monster. One declared he went down to the river one night and saw a huge beast half-way on the sand. It slid into the water as he approached.

Indians, who were the first ones to see the Ogopogo when it appeared, have not seen it for several years. They say they never look for it for fear they may see it.

Oct. 25, 1943
Journal

Ogopogo Heads For Edmonton

If an Edmontonian is curious enough, and hardy enough to stand the chill of these fall nights, he might take up sentry duty along the Saskatchewan river bank to get a glimpse of the famous Ogopogo.

According to information from Drayton Valley, the sea monster has been sighted there by two hunters at Blue Rapids. There it is believed the Ogopogo is heading for his winter quarters in Lake Winnipeg.

If that's the case, the serpent must pass through Edmonton, and hawk-eyed watchers might just be able to see him. The monster was reported at Rocky Mountain house last week where he is thought to have killed several sheep and lambs, dragging them into the river.